

# Farmington Observer

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## Cost - loans = disaster

# College dream fading away

Community college as a less expensive alternative for students unable to afford higher-priced four-year universities could be just a memory for many seeking a college education.

Increased tuition combined with Reagan administration proposals to cut back on the student loan program is threatening enrollment growth enjoyed by such places as Oakland Community College (OCC).

"We have made enrollment predictions that we will be equal to last fall, but that was before the board raised tuition," says OCC official Henry Freigruber.

Tuition recently was increased by \$3 a credit hour by the OCC board of trustees. Current tuition rates are now \$19.50 per credit hour.

"If a student took the minimal amount of 24 credit hours allowed per year for full time he would pay \$512 a year here, excluding fees," says OCC registrar Charles Kurzer.

That compares to \$1,266 for a Wayne State University student taking the same class load. And officials at WSU predict tuition will increase another 10 percent.

But bills in both the U.S. House and Senate would cut Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL) and Pell Grants, making it even more difficult for some students to make the financial grade.

Approximately 20 percent of OCC's students receive some sort of financial aid, according to OCC controller, A.D. Jarson.

ALTHOUGH THE number of students applying for student loans is small in this generally affluent area, more and more students are seeking community colleges as a less expensive alternative to a degree.

Fifty students from Farmington and Farmington Hills transferred to OCC from the three major state universities in the 1979-80 school year, according to Freigruber.

That figure increased to 72 the following year.

"The total number of students from Farmington and Farmington Hills was 1,697 during the fall of 1979," says Freigruber. "The number of students from those two cities jumped to 1,883."

Enrollment increased more than 2,000 in the 1979-80 year, from 20,863 to 22,762, he says.

But in the background of this burgeoning student population rests the student loan cutbacks.

"The House version of the bill requires students to prove the need for a Guaranteed Student Loan, while the Senate bill applies the 'financial need' to only those families with an income of \$25,000 or more," according to Ethan Bauman, an aide to U.S. Rep. William Brodhead.

The House version would also cap the basic educational opportunity grant now known as Pell Grants at \$1,800 per student, according to Bauman.

"I don't know if it (the proposed budget cuts) will have an impact on at all - it's too early to tell," says Jarson. "We have to analyze that after the fall enrollment figures are in."



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

## Pride of the Town

Festival fans, meet our new Miss Farmington Kelly Lynn Garver. The North Farmington graduate was named the stand-out candidate Wednesday evening in competition with 15 other candidates. Besides winning the top honors, the 17-year-old also

won the talent award with her violin medley of Lynn Garver. The North Farmington graduate was named the stand-out candidate Wednesday evening in competition with 15 other candidates. Besides winning the top honors, the 17-year-old also

# Kaboom

## 200 fireworks set to explode Saturday

By Mary Rodrique staff writer

Big things like fireworks come in small packages.

In Farmington police custody until Saturday are 200 small packages of gunpowder and other assorted sub-



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

Fireworks in their pre-explosive state are tame looking little packages, such as these handled by Dick Megregian.

stances that will go boom in the night. The fireworks are scheduled to be exploded at 10 p.m. Saturday on the grounds of Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, as part of the Farmington Founders Festival.

But until then, they're being kept under lock and key - as they have been

since arriving from the Ohio Fireworks Manufacturing Display Co. in Bellair, Ohio, a month ago.

"Responsible and safe use is the key to fireworks," says Dick Megregian.

Megregian, an avid fireworks hobbyist since youth, is the festival fireworks chairman. He'll ignite the fuses Saturday with partner Don Hall. Several loaders will stuff the fireworks into mortar tubes.

The show Farmington will see cost more than \$2,000 and includes both American and Oriental fireworks.

"We're using all aerial shells today as opposed to sky rockets, which are self propelled," Megregian said.

IN THEIR UNEXPLODED state, the shells look like harmless cylinders or balls, ranging from 3 to 5 inches in di-

ameter and wrapped in plain brown paper with long fuses attached. The 5-inch balls will produce a display up to 100 feet in diameter.

To be fired, the shells are placed in cardboard tubes (called mortars) which are placed into the ground for safety. Then the fuse is lit, igniting the gunpowder under the shell.

"The gases through the shell. The mortar is just like a gun," Megregian explained.

Most fireworks, like the kind to be fired at OCC, are Class B explosives; a federal explosives license is needed to purchase them. Class A explosives include things like dynamite.

And Class C explosives are over-the-counter fireworks like bottle rockets and sparklers.

Saturday night revelers can expect

to see a burst of colors, accompanied by whistles, bangs and pops. The shells will travel 150 to 300 feet in the air before bursting.

"We have arranged the show so that it has an increasing pitch which ends in the finale," said Megregian, who is a senior design engineer at Chrysler Corp.

"The final pieces are fused together so they all go off simultaneously."

The show will last a half hour to 45 minutes.

"The pace will be guided by where the fuse is lit," Megregian said. "Lighting is the key. It controls the pace."

Each shell is marked by color and type, such as "trembling gold," which will flutter a shower of gold stars toward earth.

Megregian, who has been licensed to operate fireworks shows for five years, says he has never encountered a problem.

"But I don't want to brag," he added cautiously.

The fall-out will drop over an unoccupied area.

The display will take up to five hours to prepare, Megregian said.

If it rains Saturday night, the show will be Sunday at 10 p.m.

# Pregnant lady asks palimony

A West Bloomfield woman has filed suit against a Farmington Hills man seeking \$500,000 in "palimony" and \$500 a week child support payments for the child she expects in September.

Ingrid Bainbridge filed suit last week in Oakland County Circuit Court against Charles Jarratt of Farmington Hills.

The suit asks also for medical expenses and further support until the child is 18.

Ms. Bainbridge alleged that she and Jarratt lived together in her home for seven months, that he encouraged her to become pregnant and that he left in March "with no advance notice."

Her suit seeks "palimony" on the basis she "gave him the care and nature of a close companion or wife" during the period the couple lived together.

The suit claims Jarratt "was anxious to become a father and urged the plaintiff to cooperate with him toward those ends."

The pregnancy and subsequent desertion has caused "emotional distress," Ms. Bainbridge charged. The suit also claimed that she has "no source of income."

Approximately 60 cases of child support per month are reportedly filed through the Oakland County Prosecutor's child support division.

It is unusual to file a case prior to a child's birth, according to Ms. Bainbridge's attorney, Wallace McClay.

# Leaky bike could have sparked fire

A fuel-leaking minibike with a warm motor was probably the cause of a fire which gutted a house in the Kendallwood Subdivision of Farmington Hills July 9.

The minibike was propped against some plastic containers in the garage attached to the house at 32372 Old Forge. The blaze leveled the garage and swept through the roof of the home.

A faulty electric cord in a freezer stored in the garage could have also played a role in igniting the blaze, fire officials said.

# Road fix-ups include local intersections

Twelve intersection-safety-improvement projects have been accelerated by the Oakland County Road Commission following an increase in annual appropriations of \$800,000.

The increase brings the commission's annual budget for road improvements to some \$3.2 million.

Projects speeded up by the \$800,000 were chosen by the county executive and board of commissioners. They include:

In Farmington and Farmington Hills, widening of the intersections at Farmington and Nine Mile roads, Middlebelt and 12 Mile and Nine Mile and Inkster.

In West Bloomfield Township, widening a curve and adding a guardrail on a curve in Pontiac Trail from Green Lake Road to the township line.

# Mrs. Michigan to visit Festival

The Miss Farmington Pageant always has been a big part of the Farmington Founders Festival. But this year an added dimension has come to the festivities with a visit by the 1981 Mrs. Michigan, Sally Jane Peters.

The 30-year-old mother of two will participate in several of this year's activities.

On Saturday she will autograph complimentary photos and host the Baton Twirling competition at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. She will be there at 3 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The college is located between Farmington and Orchard Lake roads, south of the I-696 expressway.

She also will participate in Saturday's parade. Another stop will be made at the Cathlam Shopping Center, Eleven Mile and Middlebelt, where she will judge the Founder's Festival talent show, at 5 p.m.

her time this year working with the Heart Association.



Sally Jane Peters

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